

Latvia, USA, China August 2009

In **Latvia**, the surprising growth of the Gospel based around the Riga Bible Center continues. SLAVA, NATASHA, TONYA and VALERIJ were all baptized over the past 2 weeks. Sister Belinda Burns from Australia continues to be a tireless worker, and when she leaves on August 20 it will be a hard act to follow- but it needs following! Here's Belinda lovingly baptizing sister Natasha at the Center:



Belinda's been working with our few young people in Latvia, including our newly baptized teenagers, doing fun things and encouraging them in their musical abilities:



However, radical poverty continues to afflict so many of our brothers and sisters. We learnt that brother Stanislav had been beaten up by Police officers who found him living in an unclaimed derelict property. He doesn't have either Latvian nor Russian citizenship, so when he went to the hospital casualty department they were unwilling to even look at him unless he paid as a private patient. So we turned our vehicle into some kind of ambulance and did what we could. He had breaks in both his shoulder and his arm, he was in terrible pain as he had not been bound up for several days. Sis Robin Jones was over from Australia and she and Cindy did a valiant job with a towel and some bandages- sent over as we recall by brethren in New Zealand some time back. Doing the procedures in a car and standing up made a strange site that attracted no small attention... what were two Australian women, one speaking Latvian and Russian, doing together with two sisters from the women's shelter, binding up a wounded man on a Latvian street? "By this shall all men know...", we hope anyway.

Please pray for our brother and so many others like him who are denied even basic casualty department treatment unless they pay significant sums. Obviously we provided the funds for our brother to get proper hospital treatment.



CHINA

Strong response continues from throughout China, and Brother Feng has again made a journey

to visit and baptize a contact, JIA LIN. Here she is after her baptism:



Whilst state control of Christian preaching varies from area to area in China, there are times and places where those we baptize do experience difficulties. We have a very active sister Yang, who has recently run into difficulties and needs our prayerful support.

Our sister writes:

"I just returned from the mountains area in northeast of China. I feel so depressed these days, because I went to a rural mountain area to preach but the local government has imposed sanctions against preaching. If I do it again, they will call the police to arrest me, Arrest and detention without legal procedure, the preaching without permission from the church and the government was not allowed. I remember how earlier I was also discriminated against by even those called Christians, because of my doctrinal faith. I studied at Northeast Theological Seminary, but as I offend 2 Christian pastors by my views, I was dismissed. In northeast of China there have been many heresies for a long time, superstitions. Some church there just want to manipulate persons. and I bought a lot of Bibles, CD players, then distributed them even to the members of some of those churches. But they are afraid it might cause some trouble to them. They tell me I don't have pastor certification, so sorry, really sorry. so they say they don't want to preach more to them.

There are many, many things, I can't tell. but God knows! God was watching me all the time. Dear brothers and sisters in truth, you can preach freely without any restriction, thanks to the lord, how lucky you are. I pray that God will guide me. I hope to meet Duncan & Cindy when they come. Thanks God".

Our sister has written a quite long study about Jonah as a result of her experiences, it's only in Chinese but it's an encouragement to our Chinese brothers and sisters. This and other such material is at <http://www.carelinks.net/zh>

CARELINKS USA

Response keeps flooding in from North America and we're very grateful to all those who are following it up. Those specifically dealing with following up contacts in prison have given us this announcement and request:

"We get a number of prisoners request *Bible Basics* and we are grateful to those who follow up on this. We'd like to share with you the case of William in MS. He got Bible Basics read it and particularly studied the chapter on 'baptism' and desired baptism, but as he's in a high security prison it's hard to visit and baptize inmates. He asked the chaplain to baptize him by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, which he did. William was attending a Bible study group when he received Bible Basics and he shared what he read in Bible Basics with the study group in the prison. There were 5 other men baptized along with William at the same time by the chaplain. However, we have not been able to visit these folk, nor were we able to discuss things with them before baptism. William just wrote to us and told us what he'd done! It would be great if someone could go visit these folks. They are in Mississippi, and if anyone is willing to make the journey or happens to be there and would like to assist, do let us know".

WORLD-WIDE

The true Gospel really is taking off world-wide, as many of those baptized over the last few years now in their turn take the message to others. Just one of many examples, from Brother Johnny Andersen in secular Denmark:

"I have been busy on the streets of Aalborg sharing the pamphlets brother Marcus sent me -with people that wanted to talk, I try to be selective so I don't waste the pamphlets! I will also try to write one myself referring people to Biblebasicsonline.com -hopefully soon some more people will wish to be baptized! Greetings from,
Brother Johnny"

Please do continue your prayerful support for all this work.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks